



Participants at a roundtable titled "Social resistance against stalking" organised by the Prothom Alo at its office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

7TH AMENDMENT Ershad says he no longer an autocrat after HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said he is no longer to be identified as an autocratic ruler after the High Court (HC) verdict on the constitution's 7th amendment.

"I have often been called an autocratic ruler and my rule has been dubbed as autocratic." But the HC in the verdict acknowledged that five years of his nine-year tenure was democratic, he said at a meeting.

Jatiya Party, a key partner of the Awami League-led grand alliance government, organised the discussion at the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the city to mark November 10 as the Democracy Day.

However, all other political and socio-cultural organisations observed the day as Shaheed Noor Hossain Day.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, a city Awami Jubo League leader and a pro-democracy activist, was shot dead by police at the city's Zero Point at Gulistan while he was participating in a procession against the then Ershad-led government.

Referring to that day, Ershad said, the day should be described as the end of the military rule and the journey of democracy. "That is why we are observing the day as Democracy Day."

The former military ruler said that after assuming power in 1982, he promised the country will return to democratic rule within two years. "But I could not keep the promise and everybody knows why."

He also mentioned that he would not prolong the military rule had there been no need for it. He even announced in parliament after the 1986 election that the country would never have military rule again.

JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar MP also spoke at the meeting.

NOOR HOSSAIN DAY OBSERVED Vow to institutionalise democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday observed the Shaheed Noor Hossain Day with due honour, dignity, and solemnity with a vow to institutionalise the democracy at all level in the country.

Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsh, Awami League, BNP and Communist Party of Bangladesh, organised different programmes including placing wreath at Noor Hossain Square in the city. Many organisations laid the floral tributes at his grave at Jurain.

Noor Hossain, a city Jubo League leader, was shot dead by police on November 10, 1987 while participating in a procession against military

dictator Hussain Muhammad Ershad. The nation has been commemorating Noor since then.

Awami League General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif led a group of leaders to Noor Hossain Square with wreath. Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP's senior joint secretary general, led his party leaders.

Some leftist political parties including CPB demanded trial of Ershad for his misdeeds during the nine years of the military rule.

Awami Jubo League, Jubo Forum, Chhatra League, Bangabandhu Cultural Forum, and many other organisations paid their respect by placing wreaths at the square.

Factory worker beaten dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A cleaner was beaten to death allegedly by his colleagues over a trivial matter at a biscuit factory in Chittagong city yesterday.

The deceased, Mohidul Islam, 28, son of Abdul Hakim of Debidder in Comilla, was working at Kiswan Snacks Ltd at Chandranagar. Police arrested Faruk Mia, another cleaner of the factory, in this connection.

Sub-inspector Pritom Sarker of Bayezid Police Station quoted witnesses as saying Faruk and Firoz, a canteen boy, locked into an alterca-

tion with Mohidul over throwing a juice pack to a waste box.

At one stage, the two started beating Mohidul up, leaving him seriously injured. Mohidul died on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Firoz managed to flee.

Upon primary investigation, SI Pritom said they suspected that Mohidul was killed due to previous enmity.

Abdul Latif, father-in-law of the victim, filed a murder case with the police station accusing Faruk and Firoz.



Pro-BNP lawyers stage a demonstration at the Supreme Court in the city yesterday as Attorney General Mahbubey Alam enters the premises. (Story on Page 1)

DU expels one more stalker

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authority yesterday expelled another student from the institution for one-year for his involvement in a 'stalking' incident.

The expelled student was identified as Riad Mahmud, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Mahmud, a second year student of Bangla department, along with few BCL activists was stalking a female student, also a journalist, on the campus on November 7.

"We have found Riad guilty in the stalking incident after a primary investigation and taken the decision," said DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan.

A show-cause notice will be served against Riad asking him to reply within November 24 why his studentship would not be cancelled permanently.

Earlier on November 8, four activists of BCL were expelled from DU for one year for stalking the female student and beating up six journalists who protested it.

Kafee, Kader new OCAS president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdullah-Al-Kafee and Aminul Kader Khalili have been elected president and general secretary of the Old Cadets Association of Sylhet (OCAS) for 2010-2012 sessions.

The new committee was formed at an annual general meeting of the organisation recently held at the Cadet College Club in Dhaka, said a press release yesterday.

The other office bearers are -- Senior Vice President: Shahnur Alam, Vice Presidents: Amir Hasan Chowdhury and Mostafa Mamun, Assistant General Secretary: Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Organising Secretary: Abidur Rahman Chowdhury, Career Affairs Secretary: Maj (retd) Sohel Mehmud, International Communication Secretary: Asaduzzaman Shaon, Public Relations Secretary: Mohiuddin Al Kawsar, Sports Secretary Nazmul Hasan, Cultural Secretary: Nazir Hossain and Office Secretary: Hasnayeem Mollah. Executive Committee Members: Dr Shakil Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahma and Maj Farhad Aziz.

NU for quick appointment of principals

DU CORRESPONDENT

Educational institutions including colleges under National University (NU) were asked to appoint new principal within six months after the post is vacant, said a press release.

The educational institutions will be fined TK 5,000 if they fail to fill the vacant post of principal within the given time.

NU will cancel the affiliation of the institutions if they fail to appoint the principal within one year.

The decision was made at the meeting of 70th academic council of NU.

NGO's SUPPORT AGAINST STALKING Victims to get instant help over phone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As stalking is going unabated, an NGO along with a call centre operator has come forward to help victims throughout the country with mental and legal supports over telephone.

The victims can get instant support from the law enforcement agencies or those who have the possibility of stalking or getting threats by any identified stalker, on contact over telephone.

Two service providers--The Hunger Project, an NGO, and call centre operator Windmill---announced it at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The service will be available from next month.

The call centre will inform police instantly about stalking, requesting them to give immediate support to the victims after getting information about the matter over phone, said Mohammad Mosharraf, managing director of Windmill.

"We will preserve voice calls and use those against stalkers if the victims need legal help," he added.

They will also give support to the victims

who don't know how to lodge complaints against stalking with police stations, said Mosharraf.

The call centre will provide counseling to the victims who are mentally disturbed with stalking, he added.

The initiative will also assist those victims who do not share their problems for social or security reasons, said Prof Badiul Alam Majumder, director of The Hunger Project while addressing the press conference.

Former adviser to a caretaker government ASM Shahjahan said stalking should be treated as the worst criminal offence, as stalkers have recently killed the victims, thrown acid on them or involved in abducting and abusing them. Even, they killed the protestors of stalking, he added.

In Bangladesh, the victims always take stalking incident as a taboo to disclose before their relatives or even to their family members unless stalkers create a panic situation to her normal life. As a result, such incidents are ending up with tragic events, said the former adviser.

This initiative will encourage victims even from remote areas of the country not to be mute against a single harassment, he added.

Boalkhali UP chairman still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The whereabouts of missing union parishad chairman of Boalkhali upazila Nazrul Islam Bacha was yet to be known till yesterday.

Family members of Bacha alleged that six people claiming to be members of law enforcement agencies picked up Bacha from Gazipur Chouraster Moor on Monday evening when the latter was on his way to Gazipur from Dhaka.

BNP Boalkhali upazila unit formed a human

chain in front of Chittagong Press Club yesterday afternoon demanding information on the whereabouts of Bacha, president of the unit and chairman of Ahla Koroldenga union.

Mentionable, BNP activists and some locals from Boalkhali upazila encircled the temporary camp of Rab-7 at Chandgaon on Tuesday afternoon demanding release of Bacha.

On contact, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abul Kashem said no one came to them with allegations of Bacha being arrested or gone missing.

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Modernise air force President asks air chief

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has emphasised taking necessary initiatives for modernising the Bangladesh Air Force through further increasing professional skills of all its members.

President made the emphasis when Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Shah Md Ziaur Rahman met him at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, he asked air chief to take measures so that the trend of ongoing development could continue in the air force.

Air chief informed Zillur that the Bangladesh Air Force has already proved its excellence in the service.

Ziaur said he will be going to China on November 14 to attend the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition at the invitation of the Chinese National Defence Ministry.

এতো উৎফুল্ল হয়ে কোথায় যাচ্ছে?

কোরবান হতে। কেননা কোরবানীর মাংস আর সজীব রেডি মিক্স দু'য়ে মিলে তৈরি হবে আরো সুস্বাদু মাটিন বিরিয়ানী, চিকেন বিরিয়ানী ও তেহরী। ভুনা খিচুড়ি ও পোলাও তৈরিও বাদ যাবে না। আর রান্না হবে অতি সহজেই বাটপট। তো আনন্দে ডরপুর হবে হৃদ ও হৃদের পরবর্তী দিনগুলো সজীব রেডি মিক্সের মজাদার স্বাদে।

রেডি মিক্স
বাটপট যখন তখন

DHAKA TODAY

Inauguration
Bangladesh Diabetic Samity will inaugurate a programme. Time: 1:00pm, Venue: Birdem hospital auditorium.

Human Chain
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal will form a human chain. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: National Press Club.

Seminar
Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (Coast) will hold a seminar. Time: 6:30pm, Venue: Brac Inn, Mohakhali.

Human Chain
Eastern University will form a human chain. Time: 2:00pm, Venue: Mirpur Road (Dhanmondi Road No 2-8).

Lecture
Journalism Training & Research Initiative (Jatri) will organise a public lecture. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Jatri conference room, Karwan Bazar.